

STATEMENT OF A.T. WALL
DIRECTOR, RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
RE: INVESTIGATION INTO MISTREATMENT OF AN INMATE
11:00 AM - - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006

BEHIND ME STANDS SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF THIS CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT: ASSISTANT DIRECTORS, LEGAL COUNSEL, THE WARDENS AND DEPUTY WARDENS OF OUR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE MEMBERS OF OUR OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS - - THAT IS TO SAY THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT. TO MY LEFT STANDS MAJOR STEVEN O'DONNELL, SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE RHODE ISLAND STATE POLICE. TO MY RIGHT STANDS AARON ALDRICH, CHIEF INSPECTOR OF THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. I HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR EDITORS WILL REPORT THIS STATEMENT AS COMPLETELY AS YOU CAN.

ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH, INSPECTOR KIM MALLETT RECEIVED INFORMATION THE DAY BEFORE THAT A 30-YEAR-OLD WHITE MALE WHO IS SERVING A SHORT SENTENCE AT MINIMUM SECURITY FOR A NON-VIOLENT CRIME HAD BEEN ABUSED AND SERIOUSLY MISTREATED BY EMPLOYEES OF THIS AGENCY. LET ME NOTE THAT INSPECTOR MALLETT WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION BUT FOR THE COURAGE OF THE STAFF WHO BROUGHT IT FORWARD. OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS INSPECTORS TOOK IMMEDIATE ACTION AND IDENTIFIED THE INMATE IN QUESTION. HE WAS INTERVIEWED EXHAUSTIVELY YESTERDAY,

COOPERATED FULLY AND WE HAVE ALREADY CONFIRMED KEY PORTIONS OF HIS ACCOUNT FROM INDEPENDENT SOURCES. AS OF YESTERDAY EVENING, I PLACED NINE INDIVIDUALS ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE: ONE CAPTAIN, FIVE LIEUTENANTS, TWO PERSONNEL IN THE INMATE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT AND ONE CORRECTIONAL OFFICER - - SOME FOR THEIR INVOLVMENT IN THE EPISODE AND OTHERS FOR FAILURE TO REPORT THE INCIDENT.

I HAVE ALSO SPOKEN WITH COLONEL PARE AND ASKED THAT THE RHODE ISLAND STATE POLICE JOIN US IN THE INVESTIGATION. HE PLEDGED WHATEVER RESOURCES WOULD BE NEEDED FROM HIS AGENCY. THE INVESTIGATION IS PROCEEDING FULL FORCE AND I GUARANTEE YOU THAT NO STONE IS BEING LEFT UNTURNED. THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE OF THE FBI HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED. WE ARE ALREADY CLOSING IN ON ALL THE EVIDENCE NEEDED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

LET ME SEND THIS MESSAGE TO ANY STAFF WHO NEEDS TO HEAR IT: IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THIS MATTER, NOW IS THE TIME TO COME FORWARD. YOU KNOW WHAT THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES OF YOU. DON'T GO DOWN FOR COVERING UP. IF INVESTIGATORS QUESTION ANY OF YOU IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES, I STRONGLY ADVISE YOU TO COOPERATE. STONEWALLING IS NOT GOING

TO SAVE YOU. I AM OUTRAGED AND DISGUSTED THAT ROGUE PERSONNEL WOULD VIOLATE THEIR OATH OF OFFICE WE ALL HAVE TAKEN AND BETRAY THEIR COLLEAGUES AND THE PUBLIC TRUST. THEIR BEHAVIOR IS A DISGRACE TO THIS PROUD DEPARTMENT AND THE 1,500 MEN AND WOMEN WHO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES WITH INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM EVERY DAY AND NIGHT. ANY MISTREATMENT OF INMATES IS ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE AND I WILL NOT TOLERATE IT. A THOROUGH, AGGRESSIVE AND CAREFUL INVESTIGATION IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. THOSE INVOLVED WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.